

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 17, 2021
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson Tom Renz called the Monthly Town Board Meeting in the Town Hall to order at 6:30pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum with Seana Frint, Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim, Brett Frierhood and Brock Frierhood were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag was said by all.

A motion was made (S. Frint/Scully) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 7/20 Monthly Board Meeting and the 7/20 Bid Opening and Special Town Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – limited to 3 minutes

Barb Clements spoke in regard to the CBCW organization and in particular the program coordinator

Clerk Correspondence – the Friends of Eau Claire Lakes provided updated documentation to the board regarding the water level gauges and the data received and outlined their plans for an educational component. The water sample taken at the Town Hall were tested by Bayfield Co. Health Dept. and was deemed safe. An email was received from a resident concerned about the recent approval of a short term rental on Kelly Lake. An email was received from a resident on Moen Rd regarding the potential expansion of Moen Rd. The clerk reported receipt of a payment of \$333.75 from the WI DNR reimbursing the wages and equipment usage for a wildland fire on June 17th.

The new Drummond Area School District Superintendent, Dennis Kaczor, introduced himself to the board. He will be a liaison to the school board and provided the town board with an update.

Update on Tomahawk Lake lot- Chris Webb has provided the necessary documents to submit an application for access abandonment which requires DNR approval following by a public hearing. If the board wants to pursue abandonment, they need to decide if they will sell all of parcel #2685 which extends from Tomahawk Lake south to the Section line or only that portion from Tomahawk Lake to Tomahawk Lake Rd.

A motion was made (Renz/J. Frint) to pursue the abandonment process, pending DNR approval. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The board would only abandon the portion from Tomahawk Lake to Tomahawk Lake Rd.

Discussion regarding the condition of the waterway between Middle Eau Claire and Bony Lake. Chairman Renz stated there is no boat landing on Bony Lake so all property owners on that lake, as well as those on the channel, have to use the waterway from the Middle to get to Bony so it's an issue that concerns everyone. Then Paul Korbein of 2881 Lake Rd, whose property is on the opening from the channel into Middle, spoke and said that the sheet metal piling is deteriorating and it's bowing in and narrowing the opening and causing a safety issue. He has spoken to a DNR

representative who stated the landowners are responsible and not the DNR. He formally asked the board to look into this and determine what has been done and how it can be corrected. He said he spoke with Four Star Construction and that they thought they may have done the work back in the 1990s.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Lee Wiesner asked if the town was still bracing the channel in the winter months and it was confirmed that they are. Supervisor Neff said it should be determined if a permit is required and repair costs estimated. Supervisor Seana Frint said she would be surprised that a permit wouldn't be required. She also thought there may be tourism grant funds available. Supervisor Neff suggested contacting a known DNR representative to find out who to talk to at the DNR and get something in writing regarding who is responsible for the upkeep and repairs.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz asked Dave Scully and Eric Neff to research the issue. Paul offered to meet with any board members to show them the issue and discuss further.

Shelby Driscoll has requested to use the Town Garage parking lot and water for a car wash fundraiser to benefit cancer. Any proceeds would be donated to the American Cancer Society. It would take place on Saturday, 8/28 from 9-1pm.

A motion was made (Scully/Renz) to allow use of the Town Garage parking lot and water for a car wash fundraiser to be held on 8/28/2021. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Taste of Barnes proposal – Dave Scully

Dave has talked to some area restaurants who would like to sell food at the Town Park ballfield along with a carnival on Labor Day weekend in 2022. Three businesses, Cedar Lodge, The Windsor and Cabin Store have already said they would participate. He will be talking to other businesses as well. It wouldn't cost the town anything to hold the event.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to authorize Dave Scully to pursue the idea of the Taste of Barnes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Supervisor Neff would like to amend the Town Roads and Right of Way Policy to read "that the Town shall remove all trees and mow vegetation within 10 feet OR the benching width, whichever is greater". Chairman Renz asked Supervisor Neff to work with Foreman Jordheim to re-word the policy and present it at a future board meeting.

The Maintenance Plan for Tomahawk Lake Park was presented at a previous meeting but the board did not vote to approve it. It is tied to the access abandonment process for the lot on Tomahawk Lake as a maintenance plan is required so the board needs to formally accept the plan.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to approve the Maintenance Plan for 2021 for Tomahawk Lake Park. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The recently revised Holiday pay policy was reviewed. The Employee Policy Handbook now states that eligible employees' Holiday pay will be 8 hours, regardless of the employee's normal work hours.

A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to approve the revised Holiday pay policy. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz would like to change the probationary period from 180 days to 365 days going forward. Clerk Bourassa asked if the HSA contribution would also be delayed until the probationary period is satisfied. The board said that it would.

A motion was made (Neff/Renz) to amend the Probationary Policy to 365 days. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Sick Leave policy was also reviewed and discussion was held. Currently the policy allows for 5 days of sick leave after 1 year of employment, to be accrued at a rate of 3 1/3 hours per month for a total of 5 days per year up to a maximum of 80 hours. Chairman Renz would like to increase the maximum that can be accrued to 420 hours to allow for long term illnesses and to encourage retention of employees. He felt that 2 weeks was inadequate for some situations and wants to be sure employees can still provide for their families in spite of health issues.

A motion was made (J. Frint/Scully) to keep the accrual rate at 3 1/3 hours per month but increase the maximum to accrue to 420 hours. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Enrollment of full time employees in the Wisconsin Retirement System's Health, Life and Income Continuation plans was discussed and the board will discuss further at the October budget sessions.

The placement of an ad in the Hayward Lakes Vacation Guide was discussed. Supervisor Seana Frint felt it was worthwhile as it has wide exposure.

A motion was made (S. Frint/Renz) to pay \$600 for a 1/4 page ad in the Vacation Guide. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve July vouchers

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to approve the July vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$698,899.37 which includes the 2nd Quarter General Transportation Aid. \$809,435.17 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account. \$6,796.04 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account with additional registration fees received in July. The Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$822.91. The PayPal account has a balance \$4,018.88 (all TLP donations) for a total of all funds of \$1,519,968.37 with \$564.37 in interest earned so far this year.

A motion was made (Neff/S. Frint) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

Roads & Property

Roads

Grading continues as weather permits. Bingo Roads are being widened as well.
Rabbit Hutch work is continuing with widening and using old gravel from the outer edges of the road.
Clearwater road culvert has been repaired and gravel has been placed and packed.
Grading of ATV/UTV routes has become an issue with the roads being tore up. The town has the right to send a bill the people that are caught doing the damage. Statue 86.02 explains it detail.
Possible that the board may want to move in that direction.
Mowing is ongoing and second round will start the week of 30th

Fire Hall

Parking Lot has been taken down to the correct sub grade. Finish grade has been placed and packed to correct compaction.
Asphalt, one lift will be done this fall. With the wear course finished in the spring.
Reason for not laying two lifts of asphalt is with all the excavation that needed to be done the extra time will allow the sub grade to settle a bit. If there is an issue with the binder course in the spring it will be less expensive to fix than it would be if two lifts were placed.
There was culvert install in the drive next to the Heli Pad.

Parks

Mowing will continue the week of the 23rd at TLP. Trail repaired is being worked on. New signs have been placed.

Jeff Jordheim also reported that the culvert at Mulligan Creek Rd is deteriorating badly and will need to be replaced possibly with a box culvert. He will be meeting with Shawn Haseleau of the DNR next week to review the situation and make a recommendation. She thought there would be grant funds available.

The Highway Foreman requested that the board consider the purchase of a grader carbide tip cutting edge for \$4,300. It would be transferable to any future grader the town might purchase.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the purchase of a grader carbide tip cutting edge. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion regarding hiring of part time worker(s). The foreman suggested hiring Rocky Clements to fill the Parks & Rec maintenance position for 24 hours a week, and Greg Strasser to work 32 hours a week.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to hire Rocky Clements and Greg Strasser at a rate of \$18/hr for the suggested number of hours. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Fire Department Report – Brock Friermood

Monthly report Fire

Report: 0 Runs (corrected, there was 1 run)

Have received the fire inspection reports. There are still a few items that need to be addressed in local buildings. I will be contacting them to set up an inspection by me to see if they have complied and up to date.
Ruckus in the Woods was this past weekend, had a few members help out with that.
The Bayfield County Fair was also this past weekend and had a couple members help out.

Brock reported that the items put up for the online auction have sold with the exception of an ATV.

The #1 fire engine is 30 years old so the town is looking to replace it.

Two bids for the fire engine were received and opened by Chairman Renz. One was from Stainless & Repair for \$422,569 and the other was from Darley for \$425,000. Both have International chassis. Brock questioned what the warranty on the pump is and Chairman Renz stated it is a lifetime warranty on the Darley bid and 6 years on the Stainless & Repair bid. Chairman Renz asked Fire Chief Brock Frierhood for his recommendation and he said the Darley bid did not meet the specs and didn't include \$30,000 worth of equipment that we requested be included.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to accept the bid from Stainless & Repair for \$422,569.00. Roll call vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

Ambulance Department Report – Brett Frierhood

Monthly report Ambulance

8 calls since the last meeting. Currently at 56 for the year. Last year we had 99 for the year. Full-time/part-time personnel have been working on organizing and inventorying supplies. Supplies have been ordered as needed, more to come. Ruckus in the Woods event coverage, Aug 14th.

Brett asked if the Open House should still be planned for Labor Day weekend or it was suggested that it be held during Fire Prevention Week in early October. The board said to plan for it in October since there isn't enough time to plan for holding the event in a week and a half.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Land Use Planning Commission: Seana Frint

1. Pinnacle Properties Mequon LLC of xxxx E. Eight Mile Lake Rd-Class A-Special Use permit for shore land grading for driveway
2. Steven or Teresa Clements of xxxx Wilbur Smith Rd-Class A-Special Use permit for cabin construction in F1 zoning district
3. Peter & Marla Komro Rev. Trust of 3720 Schiess Rd-Class A-Special Use permit to install a turn-around driveway and removal of stumps. The commission was concerned about the stump removal

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to table the Special Use permit for shore land grading for a driveway for Pinnacle Properties Mequon LLC pending receipt of distances from shoreline... Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the Special Use permit for cabin construction in a F1 zoning district for the Clements. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to approve the Special Use permit to install a turn-around driveway and stump removal for Peter & Marla Komro Rev. Trust. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Roads & Right of Way Committee – Jim Frint

The committee requested that the board allot \$40,000 for reconstruction of the Ellison/Moore intersection in 2022. The board would like to apply for funding for the project thru the LRIP program but may not be able to get the funds until 2023-24.

The committee requested the addition of Chris Lane to the RROW committee as a full member.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve Chris Lane as a member of the RROW committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A.I.S. Committee

The A.I.S. Committee provided updated job descriptions for the Program Coordinator and Boat Landing Monitors and requested the board's approval.

Chairman Renz asked if the Town has a monitor on the Lower Eau Claire Lake.

A Motion was made (Renz/Scully) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Lee Wiesner confirmed that the town does man the Lower Eau Claire lake landing. Chairman Renz commented that he'd like to see the actual hours worked on the timesheets (not just the number of hours) and Supervisor Neff said that the new Paycom system will track that. Lee Wiesner said that one of the reasons why a monitor moves from one site to another is due to the need to meet the required hours for the CBCW grant.

A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz read a report from AIS Committee Chair, Chris Webb. She said she received notice that the Town Board wished to have the AIS Boat Landing Coordinator have less contact with the public and with the paid Boat Landing Monitors and updated the job description as well as the one for the monitors. Once the board approves them, all positions will be re-opened for applications. There will be a meeting scheduled on September 20th at 9am for the monitors to meet with the AIS Committee. She also reported on the AIS growth in affected lakes and the building of a Herbicide barrier for chemical treatment. Supervisor Neff reported that the divers will be starting earlier in the spring on the Upper Eau Claire in order to prevent the spread of invasive species before the plant breaks down due to warmer water temperature.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to approve the updated job descriptions as presented. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Parks & Rec Committee - Pat Johnston

The committee requested the addition of Blair Gagne to the Parks & Rec committee as a full member. It will give the board 7 members. He has been helping with the mowing of the trails.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve Blair Gagne as a member of the Parks & Rec committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Pat Johnston reviewed a proposal for the repair of the tennis/pickleball courts with one court made into a permanent pickleball court. Surface Pro LLC has provided a quote for Armor crack repair of 500 feet for \$12,500 and the resurfacing of the courts would be \$16,000. To install the stanchions that would cost an additional \$6,000. They would look to get donations for the \$6,000 so the total Town cost would be \$28,500. Pat said she'd like to get another bid but Chairman Renz said we need to put it out for bid so Pat will work with the clerk to get an ad placed. She suggested that two

people should be responsible for maintaining the ice rink as two are needed to man the fire hose. She also said that repairs are needed to some of the boards in the ice rink.

Chairman Renz reviewed the Timeline. Supervisor Jim Frint asked about a parcel of town-owned land (known as the “stump dump”) and suggested the town should consider selling it as he believes it is land-locked. It was added to the timeline to research. The Taste of Barnes was also added.

Motion made (Neff/S. Frint) to adjourn the Monthly Board Meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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